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Case Docket No. CHR 99-14 CIP I
Serial No. 09/854,367

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/854,367
Applicant : Sukun Zhang
Filed : May 11, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1734
Examiner : Sing P. Chan

Docket No. : CHR 99-14 CIP I
Customer No. : 36876

For: **Method for Releasing Laminated Materials**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, Thomas M. Sisson, declare as follows:

1. THAT I received my Ph. D. in Chemistry from the University of Arizona in 1997. Since 1997 I have performed research in industrial polymer chemistry, specifically emulsion polymerization at MeadWestvaco Corporation as well as SC Johnson Polymer in Racine Wisconsin. From 1997 to 2000, I was employed as a Research Scientist at SC Johnson Polymer, Racine Wisconsin. From 2000 to present, I have been employed with MeadWestvaco Corporation, Charleston, South Carolina, and currently hold the position of Technical Manager. I have more than 20 publications and patents in the field of polymer chemistry.

2. THAT I am familiar with the art and science of polymer chemistry and coating formulations.

3. THAT I am familiar with the above-described patent application and the teachings contained therein.

The applicant teaches method of laminating sheets of acrylic and/or polyester resins which employs as a release sheet cellulosic-based paper substrates which have been coated on at least one side with an aqueous polymer coating composition.

A skilled artisan would recognize from the teachings contained in the application that the applicant's coating compositions:

- (a) do not contain rosin,
- (b) do not undergo crosslinking,
- (c) do not contain amine-functional moieties, and
- (d) do contain water-dispersible stabilizing polymers and are, therefore, supported polymers.

4. THAT I am familiar with referenced U.S. Patent No. 4,689,102 to Prawdzik et al.

This patent discloses a traditional method of forming a conventional high pressure laminate with several layers of core stock impregnated with thermosetting resin, decorative sheet, and release sheet (having at least one surface which includes a B-stage cured coating of a compositions comprised of abrasion-resistant mineral particles dispersed in a resinous matrix) inserted between the sheet assemblies to ensure separation of the assemblies from each other. The teachings contained in Prawdzik et al. would not teach or suggest the applicant's method or release coating compositions to those skilled in the art.

5. THAT I am a co-inventor of, and am familiar with, commonly assigned referenced U.S. Patent No. 6,429,247 to Shah et al.

This patent teaches and claims the production of rosin-fatty acid vinyllic emulsion compositions. A skilled artisan would understand that rosin is a tackifier and an adhesion promoter. Indeed, one of the fundamental properties exhibited by rosin-fatty acid vinyllic emulsion compositions taught in the patent is an enhanced adhesion to substrates.

Accordingly, one skilled in the art would recognize that the rosin-containing

compositions taught in the patent are significantly different from the aqueous polymeric release coating compositions taught by the applicant, as the applicant's compositions do not contain rosin.

6. THAT I am familiar with referenced U.S. Patent No. 5,498,659 to Esser.

This patent teaches crosslinkable surface coatings which contain amine-functional moieties. These aqueous polymeric formulations are non-supported, in that they are stabilized by a water/surfactant combination and do not contain water-dispersible stabilizing polymers.

A skilled artisan would understand that the non-stabilized, amine-containing, crosslinked polymeric formulations taught by Esser would exhibit very different chemical, physical, and performance properties than those exhibited by the stabilized, non-amine containing, non-crosslinked polymeric coating compositions taught by the applicant.

7. THAT I am familiar with referenced U.K. Specification No. 1,260,477 to Bishop.


Bishop discloses a release coating suitable for use with wallpaper which contains at least one natural or synthetic wax in the amount of 10% to 30% by weight of the total composition. The teachings contained in Bishop would not teach or suggest the applicant's method or release coating compositions to those skilled in the art.

8. THAT I am familiar with referenced U.S. Patent No. 4,513,059 to Dabroski.

This patent discloses the production of pressure sensitive adhesive paper tape which employs a release coating in a dry coating weight of about 0.2 to about 0.4 ounce per square yard. The teachings contained in Dabroski would not teach or suggest the applicant's method or release coating compositions to those skilled in the art.

9. THAT the teachings contained in Prawdzik et al., Shah et al., Esser, Bishop, and Dabroski, either alone or in combination, would not explicitly or implicitly teach or suggest the applicant's improved method of laminating sheets to one skilled in the art.

10. THAT the undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.



Thomas M. Sisson

Date: _____

10/29/03